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Leonard C Suchyta c/o Christian R Andersen
Verizon Services Group
600 Hidden Ridge Drive
Mail Code HQE03H01
Irving, TX 75038

EXAMINER

GAUTHIER, GERALD

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2645

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/193,249

Applicant(s)

CHESTON ET AL.

Examiner

Gerald Gauthier

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. **Claim 1** is objected to because of the following informalities: line 16 "the message" lacks of antecedent basis. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1, 2, 15-17, 20, 24, 34-36 and 43** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lennig et al. (U S 5,479,488) in view of Srinivasan (US 6,072,862).

Regarding **claim 1**, Srinivasan discloses a system for message delivery (column 1, lines 6-8), (which reads on claimed “a voice-responsive messaging system”) comprising:

recording a destination party identity (column 4, line 51 “identification”) and a destination address type (column 4, line 57 “message services”), by calling party (12 on FIG. 1), for a corresponding message (column 4, lines 49-61) [The calling party need only to know a subscriber telephone, identification and the type of message to be sent to the subscriber];

a master control unit (10 on FIG. 1) configured for generating a destination address query (column 4, line 10 “a query message”) for an identified directory database (24 on FIG. 1) in response to identification of the destination party identity and the destination address type by the speech recognition unit, wherein the master control unit, in response to receiving a destination address reply (column 4, line 24 “the results”) from the identified directory database, selectively initiates a transfer (column 4, line 27 “to transmit”) of the message to the destination party based on the destination address reply (column 4, lines 8-27) [The mailbox send a query to the SCP to determine the routing destination and based on the results the SCP instructs the mailbox the appropriate destination to transmit the message].

Srinivasan fails to disclose a voice processing unit and a speech recognition unit.

However, Lennig teaches a voice processing unit (14 on FIG. 1);

a speech recognition unit (14A on FIG.2) for outputting data (column 7, line 37 “main number”) corresponding to identified words (column 7, line 35 “business name”)

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spoken by the calling party (column 7, lines 35-54) [The voice processing unit receives the spoken input from the caller and outputting the main number];

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a voice processing unit and a speech recognition unit of Lennig in the invention of Srinivasan.

The modification of the invention will offer the capability of a voice processing unit and a speech recognition unit such as the system would recognize the acoustics of the caller's utterance.

Regarding **claim 2**, Srinivasan and Lennig as applied to **claim 1** above differ from **claim 2** in that it fails to disclose a signaling network interface.

However, Lennig teaches a signaling network interface for sending the destination address query to the identified directory database, and for receiving the destination address reply from the identified directory database, via an interoffice signaling network configured for exchanging data between the voice-responsive messaging system and the identified directory database (column 4, lines 10-21).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a signaling network interface of Lennig in the invention.

The modification of the invention will offer the capability of a signaling network interface such as the system would recognize the acoustics of the caller's utterance.

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Regarding **claim 15**, Srinivasan discloses a system for message delivery (column 1, lines 6-8), (which reads on claimed "a telecommunications network") comprising:

a unified message platform system (10 on FIG. 1) for identifying a destination party identity (column 4, line 51 "identification") and a destination address type (column 4, line 57 "message services"), the unified message platform outputting a destination address query (column 4, line 10 "a query message") based on the destination party identity and the destination address type (column 4, lines 49-61) [The calling party need only to know a subscriber telephone, identification and the type of message to be sent to the subscriber];

a directory database (24 on FIG. 1), storing destination addresses (column 3, line 34 "specific destination") for respective destination parties (column 3, line 36 "subscriber") based on destinations address type (column 3, line 39 "e-mail") the directory database for generating a directory response (column 4, line 24 "the results") based on reception of the destination address query (column 4, lines 8-27) [The mailbox send a query to the SCP to determine the routing destination and based on the results the SCP instructs the mailbox the appropriate destination to transmit the message]; and

a data network (41 on FIG. 1) for transporting the destination address query and the directory response according to a prescribed data network protocol (column 4, lines 24-27) [The SCP utilizes conventional routing facilities in order to transmit the message to the appropriate destination].

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Srinivasan fails to disclose a central office switching system and a speech recognition unit.

However, Lennig teaches a central office switching system (33 on FIG. 2) configured for receiving a line-sided connection (column 5, lines 9-11) with a calling party (40 on FIG. 2 and column 5, lines 9-15) [The calling party uses the telephone line connected to the end office to call the system];

a speech recognition unit (14A on FIG.2) for identifying a destination party identity (column 7, line 35 "business name") and based on respective speech samples (column 7, line 21 "business name spoken") supplied by the calling party via the line-sided connection (column 7, lines 35-54) [The unit recognizes the business name spoken by the caller and determine whether or not the database lists a number for the business unit receives the spoken input from the caller and outputting the main number].

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a central office switching system and a speech recognition unit of Lennig in the invention of Srinivasan.

The modification of the invention will offer the capability of a central office switching system and a speech recognition unit such as the system would deliver the message to the appropriate message system.

Regarding **claim 16**, Srinivasan and Lennig as applied to **claim 15** above differ from **claim 16** in that it fails to disclose a null result in the directory response.

However, Lennig teaches the directory database selectively supplies one of an identified destination address and a null result in the directory response in based on executing the destination address query (column 7, lines 17- 28).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a null result in the directory response of Lennig in the invention.

The modification of the invention will offer the capability of a null result in the directory response such as the system would deliver the message to the appropriate message system.

Regarding **claim 17**, Srinivasan discloses the unified message platform system selectively sends a message, selected by the calling party, to the identified destination address in response to reception of the corresponding directory response (column 4, lines 16-27).

Regarding **claim 20**, Srinivasan and Lennig as applied to **claim 15** above differ from **claim 20** in that it fails to disclose a local directory database.

However, Lennig teaches a local directory database for storing (16 on FIG. 1), for each subscriber of the unified message platform system, a destination party identity

(305 on FIG. 3A), a destination address (306 on FIG. 3A), and a message type corresponding to the destination address (FIG. 8); and

a master control unit configured for outputting the destination address query to the directory database via the data network based on a detected absence of the destination party identity in the local directory database (column 4, lines 35-42).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a local directory database of Lennig in the invention.

The modification of the invention will offer the capability of a local directory database such as the system would deliver the message to the appropriate message system.

Regarding **claim 24**, Srinivasan discloses a method for message delivery (column 1, lines 6-8), (which reads on claimed "a method in a switched communications network") the method comprising:

identifying a destination party (column 4, line 51 "subscriber telephone") and a destination address type (column 4, line 57 "message services"), the destination address type corresponding to a destination address (column 4, line 56 "e-mail") to be utilized by the calling party (12 on FIG. 1) for access the destination party (column 4, lines 49-61) [The calling party need only to know a subscriber telephone, identification and the type of message to be sent to the subscriber].

accessing a directory database (24 on FIG. 1) via a data network (41 on FIG. 1) for retrieval of the destination address corresponding to the destination party and the

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destination address type (column 4, lines 16-27) [The SCP executes internal call processing logic to determine the routing destination].

Srinivasan fails to disclose an originating central office switching system and speech samples.

However, Lennig teaches connecting a calling party (40 on FIG. 2) via a line-sided connection (31 on FIG. 2) to an originating central office switching system (33 on FIG. 2) serving the calling party (column 5, lines 9-15) [The caller's station makes is connected to the line circuit via the end office];

processing speech samples (column 7, line 35 "business name") spoken by the calling party on the line-sided connection to identify a destination party (column 7, line 37 "main number") and (column 7, lines 35-54) [The units recognizes the business name spoken by the caller and identify the main number from the list]; and

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use an originating central office switching system and speech samples of Lennig in the invention of Srinivasan.

The modification of the invention will offer the capability of an originating central office switching system and speech samples such as the system would deliver the message to the appropriate message system.

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Regarding **claim 34**, Srinivasan discloses a system for message delivery (column 1, lines 6-8), (which reads on claimed "a telecommunications network") comprising:

a unified message platform (10 on FIG. 1) comprising :

a directory access system (24 on FIG. 1) for accessing destination address information (column 3, line 34 "specific destination") for the destination party (column 3, line 36 "subscriber") based on the corresponding destination address type (column 3, line 39 "e-mail"), the unified message platform configured for forwarding a recorded message (column 4, line 27 "message") based on accessing the destination address information for the corresponding destination address type (column 4, lines 16-27) [The SCP executes internal call processing logic to determine the routing destination].

Srinivasan fails to disclose a central office switching system and a speech recognition unit.

However, Lennig teaches a central office switching system (33 on FIG. 2) configured for receiving a line-sided connection (31 on FIG. 2) with a calling party (40 on FIG. 2 and column 5, lines 9-15) [The calling party uses the telephone line connected to the end office to call the system]; and

a speech recognition unit (14A on FIG. 2) for identifying a destination party (column 7, line 37 "main number") from respective speech inputs (column 7, line 35 "business name") provided by the calling party via the line-sided connection (column 7,

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lines 35-54) [The units recognizes the business name spoken by the caller and identify the main number from the list].

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a central office switching system and a speech recognition unit of Lennig in the invention of Srinivasan.

The modification of the invention will offer the capability of a central office switching system and a speech recognition unit such as the system would deliver the message to the appropriate message system.

Regarding **claim 35**, Srinivasan and Lennig as applied to **claim 34** above differ from **claim 35** in that it fails to disclose a master control unit.

However, Lennig teaches the directory access system includes a master control unit configured for generating a destination address query for an identified directory database in response to identification of the destination party (column 4, lines 29-35) and the destination address type by the speech recognition unit (14A on FIG.2), wherein the master control unit, in response to receiving a destination address reply from the identified directory database, selectively initiates a transfer of a message to the destination party based on the destination address reply (column 4, lines 35-41).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a master control unit of Lennig in the invention.

The modification of the invention will offer the capability of a master control unit such as the system would deliver the message to the appropriate message system.

Regarding **claim 36**, Srinivasan and Lennig as applied to **claim 35** above differ from **claim 36** in that it fails to disclose a signaling network.

However, Lennig teaches a signaling network for transporting signaling messages (12 on FIG. 1), the directory access system comprising a signaling network interface (18 on FIG.1) for sending the destination address query to the identified directory database (20 on FIG. 1), and for receiving the destination address reply from the identified directory database, via an interoffice signaling network (30 on FIG. 1) configured for exchanging data between the voice-responsive messaging system and the identified directory database (column 4, lines 45-55).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a signaling network of Lennig in the invention.

The modification of the invention will offer the capability of a signaling network such as the system would deliver the message to the appropriate message system.

Regarding **claim 43**, Srinivasan discloses the master control unit is configured for initiating a second destination address query for a second identified directory database in response to the destination address reply from the identified directory database (column 4, lines 16-27).

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4. **Claims 3-14, 16-19, 21-23 and 37-42** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Srinivasan in view of Lennig and in further view of Jones et al. (U S 5,193,110).

Regarding **claim 3**, Srinivasan and Lennig as applied to **claim 2** above differ from **claim 3** in that it fails to disclose a plurality of processing units.

However, Jones teaches a plurality of processing units, each configured for storing and processing a message for the calling party having a corresponding message type (30-30n on FIG. 1); and

a digital switching system (26 on FIG. 1) for switching calls between an assigned Multi-Line Hunt Group (46 on FIG.2) and a selected one of the processing units (44 on FIG. 2), the master control unit selectively causing the digital switching system to establish a line-sided connection between the selected one processing unit and the calling party for retrieval of the message for the calling party (column 4, lines 32-38).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a plurality of processing units of Jones in the invention of Lennig and Srinivasan.

Doing so the system provider would search the directory on more than one processing units.

Regarding **claim 4**, Srinivasan, Lennig and Jones as applied to **claim 3** above differ from **claim 4** in that it fails to disclose a forward command from the calling party.

However, Jones teaches the selected one processing unit forwards the message to a destination address specified in the destination address reply in response to a forward command from the calling party (column 4, lines 50-52).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a forward command from the calling party of Jones in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would search the destination party on subscriber's request.

Regarding **claim 5**, Srinivasan, Lennig and Jones as applied to **claim 4** above differ from **claim 5** in that it fails to disclose a message protocol.

However, Jones teaches the selected one processing unit supplies the message to the destination address according to a corresponding message type protocol (column 4, lines 52-58).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a message protocol of Jones in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would search the database via the network interface.

Regarding **claim 6**, Srinivasan, Lennig and Jones as applied to **claim 3** above differ from **claim 6** in that it fails to disclose a local directory database.

However, Lennig teaches a local directory database (16 on FIG. 1) for storing, for each subscriber of the voice-responsive messaging system, a destination party identity, a destination address, and a message type corresponding to the destination address (column 9, lines 20-30).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a local directory database of Lennig in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would search the database via the network interface.

Regarding **claim 7**, Srinivasan discloses the local database stores a plurality of message types having respective destination addresses (column 4, lines 16-27).

Regarding **claim 8**, Srinivasan discloses the message types include a voicemail message type, an e-mail message type, and a facsimile message type (column 3, lines 37-43).

Regarding **claim 9**, Srinivasan discloses the processing units include a voicemail processing unit for processing the voicemail message types, and an e-mail processing unit for processing the e-mail message type (34 and 36 on FIG. 1).

Regarding **claim 10**, Srinivasan discloses the e-mail processing unit is configured for processing the e-mail message type and the facsimile message type, the e-mail processing unit configured for converting messages between the e-mail message type and the facsimile message type (32 and 34 on FIG. 1).

Regarding **claim 11**, Srinivasan, Lennig and Jones as applied to **claim 6** above differ from **claim 11** in that it fails to disclose a network interface.

However, Lennig discloses a network interface configured for sending and receiving at least one of the destination address query and the second destination address query to the respective directory databases via a data network (18 on FIG. 1).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a network interface of Lennig in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would search more directory databases on subscriber's request.

Regarding **claim 12**, Srinivasan, Lennig and Jones as applied to **claim 11** above differ from **claim 12** in that it fails to disclose an Internet access.

However, Jones teaches the data network is the Internet (column 4, lines 45 and 50).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use an internet access of Jones in the invention.

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Doing so the system provider would search more directory databases on subscriber's request.

Regarding **claim 13**, Srinivasan, Lennig and Jones as applied to **claim 11** above differ from **claim 13** in that it fails to disclose a secured information directory database.

However, Jones teaches the master control unit outputs, via the data network, security information to at least one of the directory database and the second directory database in response to reception of a security inquiry from the corresponding directory database (column 5, lines 44-51).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a secured information directory database of Jones in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would search for control data addresses on subscriber's request.

Regarding **claim 14**, Srinivasan, Lennig and Jones as applied to **claim 3** above differ from **claim 14** in that it fails to disclose a packet switched network.

However, Jones teaches at least one of the processing units include a network interface for communication with a packet switched network (30.2 and 32 on FIG. 1).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a packet switched network of Jones in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would search for directory address on the network.

Regarding **claims 18 and 32**, Srinivasan and Lennig as applied to **claims 17 and 24** above differ from **claims 18 and 32** in that it fails to disclose transported via the data network as TCAP query.

However, Jones teaches the destination address query and the directory response is each transported via the data network as TCAP query and TCAP response messages, respectively [This system will accept all type of interfaces] (column 5, lines 23-27).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use transported via the data network as TCAP query of Jones in the invention of Srinivasan and Lennig.

Doing so the system provider would accept all type of interfaces.

Regarding **claims 19 and 33**, Srinivasan and Lennig as applied to **claims 17 and 24** above differ from **claims 19 and 33** in that it fails to disclose transported via the data network according to TCP/IP protocol.

However, Jones teaches the destination address query and the directory response is each transported via the data network according to TCP/IP protocol (column 5, lines 23-27).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use transported via the data network according to TCP/IP protocol of Jones in the invention of Srinivasan and Lennig.

Doing so the system provider would transfer data via the network.

Regarding **claim 21**, Srinivasan discloses the unified message platform system further includes a plurality of processing units, each configured for storing and processing a message for each said subscriber according to a corresponding subscriber destination address and according to a corresponding message type (30-38 on FIG. 1).

Regarding **claim 22**, Srinivasan discloses the master control unit sends a message selected by the calling party from the corresponding processing unit to the destination address corresponding to the destination party identity (column 4, lines 16-27).

Regarding **claim 23**, Srinivasan discloses one of the processing units supplies a destination address retrieved from the directory response based on the corresponding message type (column 4, lines 16-27).

Regarding **claim 25**, Srinivasan discloses forwarding a message to a destination system corresponding to the destination address according to a data protocol corresponding to the destination address type (column 4, lines 16-27).

Regarding **claim 26**, Srinivasan discloses determining an identifier for the directory database, the accessing step including accessing the directory database based on corresponding identifier (column 4, lines 16-27).

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Regarding **claim 27**, Srinivasan Lennig and Jones as applied to **claim 26** above differ from **claim 27** in that it fails to disclose a personal directory for the calling party.

However, Lennig teaches the identifier corresponds to at least one of a personal directory for the calling party, a public directory having a listing for the destination party, and a private directory serving the destination party (column 7, lines 17-47).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a personal directory for the calling party of Lennig in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would accept all type of interfaces.

Regarding **claim 28**, Srinivasan Lennig and Jones as applied to **claim 27** above differ from **claim 28** in that it fails to disclose the private directory.

However, Lennig teaches the private directory corresponds to one of a corporate directory listing the destination party as an employee, and a subscriber directory listing the destination party as a subscriber (column 7, lines 35-37).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the private directory of Lennig in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would accept all type of interfaces.

Regarding **claim 29**, Srinivasan Lennig and Jones as applied to **claim 26** above differ from **claim 29** in that it fails to disclose a destination directory database.

However, Lennig teaches identifying a destination directory database based on identification for speech samples spoken by the calling party on the line-sided connection (column 7, lines 17-21);

accessing a database for retrieval of a network address for the destination directory database, the step of accessing the directory database including accessing the directory database based on the network address retrieved from the database (column 10, lines 40-44).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a destination directory database of Lennig in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would accept all type of interfaces.

Regarding **claim 30**, Srinivasan Lennig and Jones as applied to **claim 29** above differ from **claim 30** in that it fails to disclose a group of available directories.

However, Lennig teaches the step of identifying the destination directory database includes selecting from a group of available directories (column 9, lines 20-30).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a group of available directories of Lennig in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would accept all type of interfaces.

Regarding **claim 31**, Srinivasan, Lennig and Jones as applied to **claim 30** above differ from **claim 31** in that it fails to disclose the group of available directories.

However, Jones teaches a system wherein the group of available directories includes a personal directory stored on a personal computer (FIG. 3), a public directory (30n on FIG. 1), a corporate employee directory (30n on FIG. 1), an e-mail address directory (30.3 on FIG. 1), and a mailing address directory (30n on FIG. 1).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the group of available directories of Jones in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would have multiple destinations available.

Regarding **claim 32**, Srinivasan and Lennig as applied to **claim 24** above differ from **claim 32** in that it fails to disclose transported via the data network as TCAP query.

However, Jones teaches a system wherein the destination address query and the directory response are each transported via the data network as TCAP query and TCAP response messages, respectively [This system will accept all type of interfaces] (column 5, lines 23-27).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use transported via the data network as TCAP query of Jones in the invention of Srinivasan and Lennig.

Doing so the system provider would accept all type of interfaces.

Regarding **claim 33**, Srinivasan and Lennig as applied to **claim 24** above differ from **claim 33** in that it fails to disclose transported via the data network according to TCP/IP protocol.

However, Jones teaches a system wherein the destination address query and the directory response are each transported via the data network according to TCP/IP protocol (column 5, lines 23-27).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use transported via the data network according to TCP/IP protocol of Jones in the invention of Srinivasan and Lennig.

Doing so the system provider would transfer data via the network.

Regarding **claim 37**, Srinivasan and Lennig as applied to **claim 36** above differ from **claim 37** in that it fails to disclose a plurality of processing units.

However, Jones teaches a plurality of processing units, each configured for storing and processing a message for the calling party having a corresponding destination address type (44 on FIG. 2); and

a digital switching system (26 on FIG. 1) for switching calls between an assigned Multi-Line Hunt Group (46 on FIG. 2) connected to the central office switching system and a selected one of the processing units (30n on FIG. 1), the master control unit selectively causing the digital switching system to establish a line-sided connection between the selected one processing unit and the calling party for retrieval of the message for the calling party (column 5 lines 18-23).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a plurality of processing units of Jones in the invention Lennig and Dowden.

Doing so the system provider would have multiple destinations available.

Regarding **claim 38**, Srinivasan, Lennig and Jones as applied to **claim 37** above differ from **claim 38** in that it fails to disclose a plurality of processing units.

However, Jones teaches the selected one processing unit forwards the message to a destination address specified in the destination address reply in response to a forward command from the calling party (column 4, lines 50-52).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a plurality of processing units of Jones in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would have multiple destinations available.

Regarding **claim 39**, Srinivasan, Lennig and Jones as applied to **claim 38** above differ from **claim 39** in that it fails to disclose a plurality of processing units.

However, Jones teaches one of the processing units supplies a destination address retrieved from the directory response based on the corresponding message type (S3, S4, S6, S8 and S13 on FIG.5).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a plurality of processing units of Jones in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would have multiple destinations available.

Regarding **claim 40**, Srinivasan, Lennig and Jones as applied to **claim 38** above differ from **claim 40** in that it fails to disclose a local directory database.

However, Lennig teaches comprising a local directory database for storing (16 on FIG.1), for each subscriber of the voice-responsive messaging system, a destination party identity, a destination address, and a destination address type corresponding to the destination address (column 9, lines 20-30).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a local directory database of Lennig in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would have multiple destinations available.

Regarding **claim 41**, Srinivasan, discloses the local database stores a plurality of destination address types having respective destination addresses (column 4, lines 16-27).

Regarding **claim 42**, Srinivasan discloses the destination address types include a voicemail destination address type, an e-mail destination address type, and a facsimile destination address type (column 3, lines 37-43).

Response to Arguments


5. Applicant's arguments with respect to **claims 1-43** have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gerald Gauthier whose telephone number is (703) 305-0981. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on (703) 305-4895. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4750.


g.g.
January 9, 2003

FAN TSANG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

